

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-05 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

EUR-25 ISO-00 OIC-04 L-03 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14

SP-03 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 011755Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2804

INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO. UV

SUBJECT: AFRICAN CANDIDATES FOR UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD

REF: A) STATE 212117

B) OUAGADOUGOU 1968

SUMMARY: NINE CANDIDATES PRESENTLY RUNNING FOR SIX VACANCIES IN AFRICAN-ARAB GROUP OF UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD SEATS FOR WHICH A GROUP SLATE WILL ONLY BE FINALIZED SHORTLY BEFORE OCTOBER 26 ELECTIONS BY A CAUCUS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS TO UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE OPENING OCTOBER 17. CONTINUED US NON-COMMITTAL STANCE PENDING RESULTS AFRICAN CAUCUS IS RECOMMENDED.

1. AS NOTED DEPARTMENT REFTEL, US STANCE RE EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS IS TO REFRAIN FROM COMMITTING SUPPORT TO CANDIDATES UNTIL EACH OF FIVE ELECTORAL GROUPS HAS ANNOUNCED THEIR SLATES.

2. INFORMATION RE AFRICAN CANDIDACIES REQUESTED REFTELS IS THAT FOLLOWING NINE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN NOMINATED

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FOR SIX VACANCIES OCCURING AMONG 13 SEATS NOW ALLOTTED

AFRICAN-ARAB UNESCO ELECTORAL GROUP:

GANON - MARCEL IBINGA MAGWANGU
MAURITANIA - AHMED OULD SIDI BABA
MAURITIUS - LOUIS REGIS CHAPERON
NIGER - ABDOU MOUMOUNI DIOFFO
RWANDA - PIERRE-CLAVER IYAMUREMYE
SYRIA - HASSAN MURAYWID
TUNISIA - MAHMOUD MESSADI
UGANDA - ARTHUR M. K. BAGURYWA
UPPER VOLTA - JOSEPH KI-ZERBO

3. OF SIX SEATS BEING VACATED TWO ARE ARABS (ALGERIA AND LEBANON) AND FOUR BLACK AFRICAN (CONGO (B), ETHIOPIA, SENEGAL AND ZAMBIA). ARAB GROUP HAS AGREED SYRIA AND TUNISIA WILL TAKE PLACES OF LEBANON AND ALGERIA RESPECTIVELY.

4. ONE OF FOUR REMAINING VACANCIES VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO GO TO MAURITANIA. BY REASON ITS MIXED ARAB - BLACK AFRICAN POPULATION, MAURITANIA IS COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO ARAB RESENTMENT AT HOLDING ONLY SIX AS COMPARED TO SEVEN BLACK AFRICAN SEATS ON UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD. BEST GUESS IS THAT GIRM MAY GET SEAT BEING VACATED BY SENEGAL.

5. THIS OBVIOUSLY LEAVES THREE AFRICAN VACANCIES FOR WHICH THERE ARE SIX CANDIDATES. MOREOVER TWO OF AFRICAN VACANCIES ARE ANGLOPHONES (ETHIOPIA AND ZAMBIA) SO THAT MAINTENANCE OF LINGUISTIC AS WELL AS AFRICA REGIONAL BALANCES MAY BE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS. RWANDA MOST RECENTLY RUMORED AS FAVORITE TO TAKE ZAMBIAN SEAT SO THAT SQUEEZE OF CANDIDATES FOR AVAILABLE SEATS MAY BE EVEN TIGHTER.

6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES WILL BE ON OCTOBER 26 AT 18TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE WHICH OPENS OCTOBER 17.

7. VOTES WILL BE CAST BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE, NOT RPT NOT AFRICAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HERE, MOST OF WHOM LIKELY TO BE MINISTERS FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

8. PRESIDENT OF UNESCO AFRICAN GROUP, TOGOLESE AMBASSADOR AGBLEMAGNON, ADVISED DELOFF THAT MEETING OF HEADS OF AFRICAN DELEGATIONS WILL BE HELD AS AT YET UNSPECIFIED TIME SHORTLY BEFORE OCTOBER 26 ELECTIONS AND CERTAIN TO BE MARKED, AS IN PAST, BY HEATED DEBATES AS TO WHICH OF AFRICANS WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW CANDIDACIES IN ORDER

MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY.

9. INDEED, GABONESE AMBASSADOR IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION
WITH DELOFF SAID GABON HAS THREE TIMES PREVIOUSLY HAD TO

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WITHDRAW ITS CANDIDATE AND THEREFORE EXPECTS TO HAVE
PRIORITY THIS TIME AROUND.

10. AGBLEMAGNON SAID FURTHER THAT CONSIDERABLE CONTACTING
AND MANEUVERING BETWEEN AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS NOW UNDERWAY
RE EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS BUT DECLINED TO SPECULATE
POSSIBLE SLATE THAT WOULD EMERGE IN VIEW PLETHORA OF
CANDIDATES AND DECISIVE ROLE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS IN
MEETING AT GENERAL CONFERENCE.

11. FOR OUAGADOUGOU: WHEN REMINDED THAT AMBASSADOR
GRAHAM NOW SERVING IN UPPER VOLTA, AGBLEMAGNON, ON BASIS
HIS REGARD FOR EX-COLLEAGUE AT UNESCO, RELENTED TO
COMMENT THAT KI-ZERBO IS PARTICULARLY STRONG, WELL-KNOWN
AND WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATE.

12. FOR DEPARTMENT: IT HAS BEEN RUMORED
RECENTLY THAT AFRICANS MAY SEEK EXPANDED NUMBER OF SEATS
ON EXECUTIVE BOARD.

13. COMMENT: UNCERTAIN OUTCOME AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE
SITUATION DERIVING FROM SURPLUS OF AFRICAN CANDIDATES
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STRONGLY SUPPORTS ADVISABILITY OF CCNTINUED NON-COMMITTAL
US POLICY PENDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESPECTIVE SLATES BY
AFRICANS AND OTHER ELECTORAL GROUPS.
IRWIN

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